Construction of Dehand and Subansiri Reservoir Projects

686. SHRI DAVID LEDGER: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted the recommendations of Brahmaputra Board with regard to construction of Dehand and Subansiri Reservoir Projects for finding long-term solution to the problems of flood and erosion caused by the Brahmaputra and its tributories;

(b) if so, by when the projects are likely to be cleared; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) to (c) Detailed reports for Dehang and Subansiri projects could not be finalised by Brahmaputra Board so far as surveys and investigations could not be fully carried out for want of permission from the Government of Arunachal Pradesh.

Declining under-ground water resources

687. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under ground water resources have been constantly declining as per the survey conducted in different areas of the country;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that under ground water resources are adversely affected in about 54,310 villages of the country;

(c) if so, what is Government's information in this regard;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government have fixed targets for the development of under ground water resources under Eighth Five Year Plan;

(e) if so, what are the detailed information in respect of the targets, together with the detailed allocation made for achieving these targets; and

(f) what is the percentage of targets achieved at the end of 1993-94?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) As per survey conducted by Central Ground Water Board a situation of both rise and fall in ground water levels has been observed in different areas of the country.

(b) and (c) The Central Ground Water Board makes observation in regard to levels of ground water through a Network of monitoring stations located all over the country. As per observations made in May, 1994 fall of more than 2 metres in ground water level has been observed in about 674 monitoring stations. Village-wise details in this regard are not being maintained.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) A target for creating an irrigation potential of 9.18 million hectares from ground water resources has been fixed. An alloction of Rs. 5,977.26 crores has been made for the development of Minor Irrigation including ground water. An amount of Rs. 5,119 crores from Institutional Finance apart from farmers' own investment has also been fixed. The percentage of target achieved at the end of 1993-94 is 28-1-%.